

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 DNA vaccines which incorporate genetic sequences encoding sorting signals which
2 direct an expressed antigen to a specific cellular organelle facilitate loading of the antigen onto
3 a Class I or Class II MHC molecule for immune presentation. These vaccines are a nucleic
4 acid construct of a genetic sequence encoding a protein or peptide antigen and a sorting signal
5 which will direct expressed antigen to the ER or endosomal-lysosomal compartments within
6 the cell. The resulting constructs can be used as naked DNA vaccines, packaged in
7 liposomes, or coated onto colloidal gold particles. The construct might also be delivered in an
8 expression vector which is expressed in cells of the organism being immunized.

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